

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The July 15, 2004 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims are amended and added, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In the Office Action, claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 USC as being anticipated by USP 6,230,189 (Sato et al.). In response, claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9 and 10 are amended and new claims 11-13 are added.

The present claimed invention as defined by amended claim 1 is directed to a facsimile system including a facsimile terminal and a format converter operatively connected thereto. The facsimile system includes a printer provided in the facsimile terminal, receiving means provided in the facsimile terminal, and requesting means provided in the facsimile terminal for transferring image data to the format converter when the image data format differs from a predetermined format of the printer.

The facsimile system also includes converting means provided in the format converter for converting the format of the image data transferred from the facsimile terminal to the predetermined format, returning means provided in the format converter for transferring the image data after the format is converted by the converting means to the facsimile terminal which has originally transferred the image data, and controlling means provided in the facsimile terminal for controlling the printer to print an image based on the image data transferred from the format converter.

The present claimed invention as defined by independent claim 2 is directed to a facsimile terminal which is operatively connected to a format converter so as to form a facsimile system. The facsimile terminal includes a printer configured to print an image based on image data of a predetermined format, receiving means for receiving image data transmitted via the computer network, requesting means for transferring the image data to the format converter when the image data format differs from the predetermined format, and controlling means for controlling the printer to print an image based on the image data transferred from the format converter.

The present claimed invention as defined by independent claim 7 is directed to a format converter operatively connected to a facsimile terminal provided with a function of printing an

image based on image data of a predetermined format. The format converter includes converting means for converting the format of the image data transferred from the facsimile terminal into the predetermined format, and returning means for transferring the image data whose format has been converted by the converting means to the facsimile terminal which has transferred original image data whose format is not converted.

The present claimed invention as defined by claims 1, 2 and 7 is characterized in that a format converter converts an image data format only when the facsimile terminal receives image data in a format that cannot be output by the printer.

In rejecting independent claims 1, 2 and 7 the Examiner relies upon Sato et al.

In the Office Action, the Examiner refers to sections of Sato et al. and states that they disclose structural elements of the present invention. However, all of the indicated sections referred to by the Examiner describe a network facsimile apparatus 2. In other words, Sato et al. do not describe a relationship between a facsimile terminal and a format converter. Thus, Sato et al. do not describe the facsimile terminal, format converter or facsimile system as presently claimed.

More specifically, the network facsimile apparatus 2 of Sato et al. do not disclose, teach or suggest the facsimile terminal

or the format converter of the present invention for reasons, inter alia, described below.

Sato et al. disclose converting an image data format. However, the format is converted for the purpose of minimizing the size of a file that is to be transferred to a client terminal. The reference does not, however, disclose converting an image data format so as to make it correspond to the image data format of the client terminal.

Furthermore, the network facsimile apparatus 2 is the first to receive image data. Thus, the network facsimile apparatus 2 does not execute format conversion in response to a format-conversion request from a client terminal. Accordingly, the network facsimile apparatus 2 of Sato et al. does not include the converting means of the present claimed invention.

The network facsimile apparatus 2 converts the format of received image data. The apparatus does not request another device to execute a format converting operation. Accordingly, the network facsimile apparatus 2 of Sato et al. does not include the requesting means of the present claimed invention.

Since the network facsimile apparatus 2 of Sato et al. does not request another device to execute a format converting operation, the apparatus does not receive image data returned in response to such a request. Therefore, the network facsimile

apparatus 2 of Sato et al. does not include the controlling means of the present claimed invention.

The network facsimile apparatus 2 of Sato et al. does not disclose a format converting operation in response to a request from a client terminal, or return converted image data to the client terminal that has requested execution of a format converting operation. Accordingly, the network facsimile apparatus 2 of Sato et al. does not include the return means of the present invention.

That is, the present claimed invention as defined by claims 1, 2 and 7 is patentable over the cited reference because the reference does not disclose, teach or suggest, inter alia:

requesting means provided in the facsimile terminal for transferring the image data to the format converter when the image data format differs from the predetermined format;

converting means provided in the format converter for converting the format of the image data transferred from the facsimile terminal to the predetermined format;

returning means provided in the format converter for transferring the image data after the format is converted by the converting means to the facsimile terminal which has originally transferred the image data; and/or

controlling means provided in the facsimile terminal for controlling the printer to print an image based on the image data transferred from the format converter (see claim 1, lines 12-27).

Claims 2 and 7 are patentable over the cited reference for reasons, inter alia, set forth above in connection with claim 1.

Claims 3-6 are either directly or indirectly dependent on claim 2 and claims 8-10 are either or indirectly dependent on claim 7. Dependent claims 3-6 and 8-10 are patentable over the cited references in view of their dependence on claims 2 or 7 and because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in claims 3-6 and 8-10.

In view of all of the foregoing, claims 1-10 are patentable over the cited references under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

NEW CLAIMS

New claims 11-13 are added to the present application. Claims 11-13 are directed to methods of outputting an image corresponding to independent claims 1, 2 and 7. Method claims 11-13 are patentable over the cited reference because the reference does not disclose, teach or suggest each of the steps recited in claims 11-13.

CLAIM FEE

The highest number of independent and total claims for which payment has been made in connection with this application is three (3) independent claims and twenty (20) total claims. The

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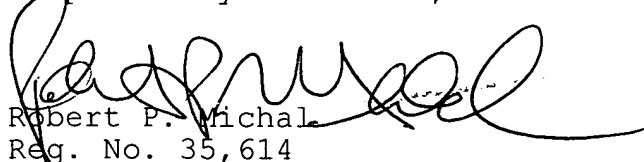
present application as amended now includes six (6) independent claims and 13 total claims. Submitted herewith is a check in the amount of \$264.00 for the presentation of three (3) independent claims above the highest number of independent claims for which payment was previously made. If any additional fees are due or if any overpayment has been made, please charge or credit our Deposit Account No. 06-1378 for such sum.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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Encl.: Check in the Amount of \$264.00